Erasmus+ Programme

«The Role Models Initiative»
The case of
the Pilot Programme “ROLE MODELS”
in Greece
School years 2017-2019

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EU Initiative «Role Models»

• **Aim:** create a network of ROLE MODELS that may inspire pupils/young persons at high risk of drop out, prevent marginalization/radicalisation
• Actions implemented at National Level
• **Pilot Programme “ROLE MODELS” in Greece**
  Implementation in three regions:
  Eastern Macedonia-Thrace, Crete and Epirus for 2 consecutive school years (2017-2019)
Design of the Pilot Programme

Scientific committee:

Head: Mrs Evangelia Karagiannopoulou, Prof. of Psychology, Dean of the School of Social Sciences at the University of Ioannina, Member of the Board of Director of IKY

Members:

Prof. Thaleia Dragona, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens
Assoc. Prof. Theodoros Giovazolias, University of Crete
Prof. Vasilios Koutras, University of Ioannina
Prof. Panagiota Vorria, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Local scientific supervisors: Dr Lydia Mitits, Educator (Eastern Macedonia-Thrace), Mrs Maria Panagiotaki, Psychologist (Crete) and Mrs Tatiana Gatsa, Psychologist (Epirus)

Project Management: Elina Mavrogiorgou, EL01 Erasmus+ NA/IKY

Authorisation of the project received by the Hellenic Ministry of Education, prior to its implementation

Target Groups

• Pupils coming mainly from underprivileged socio-economic backgrounds, facing multiple obstacles (Roma, migrant, refugee, Muslim Minority Children, Children with special needs, children living in isolated rural areas, children living in child protection facilities)

• Holistic approach:
  Targeting both children at high risk of drop out and their classmates

• Different categories of schools/ages/students represented:

• Primary schools (5th and 6th grade), Junior High Schools (Gymnasia), High Schools (Lykeia), Vocational Education Schools, Second Chance Schools
• During the school year 2017-2018, first year HE students were also targeted, through peer counselling activities, senior students serving as ROLE MODELS to them
• During the school year 2018-2019, High Schools for children with special needs (Crete and Epirus) and the Municipality of Alexandroupolis (Thrace) have also joined
Schools’ selection criteria

- Cooperation with the Regional Educational authorities
- Priority given to schools facing higher drop out levels
- Schools’ participation on a voluntary basis
- Mouth to mouth epidemic: the number of schools almost doubled the second year of implementation
- Schools that participated for a second time served as “Role Models” to new comers, sharing the experience gained during the first year/ follow up approach – create clusters of schools

Beneficiaries

2017-2018: 36 schools /850 pupils
2018-2019: 64 schools (29 new comers) /1,500 pupils

Budget:
2017-2018: cost covered by: TCA 37,962,58 + National Funding: 1,818,11 + Management costs: 9,747,44 = 49,528,13 €
2018-2019: TCA budget 50,000,00 + National Funding 2,361,58 + Management costs: 40,160,00 = 92,521,58 €

Duration:
3-4 months (2017-2018)
6-7 months (2018-2019) / evaluation of results meeting in November 2018, preparation meetings started in December 2018
Implementation of the project:

1. Training meetings (1-2) for teachers
   Separate training meetings for teachers of schools hosting children living in child protection facilities (Region of Epirus)

2. Preparatory activities for pupils:
   - Discussion on the reasons behind dropout/what they like/dislike in their school
   - What does a ROLE MODEL mean, whom the children consider as a ROLE MODEL and why
   - Pupils along with their teachers proposed ROLE MODELS

3. Short training for ROLE MODELS (University students/graduates coming from underrepresented groups themselves, students with Special needs/learning difficulties, local professionals, athletes, Second chance school pupils, etc)

Experiential learning activities:

Core activity- interview with the ROLE MODELS
   - Pupils inspired by the interview made posters, songs, small theatrical plays, small documentaries, etc.

4. Regional dissemination events gathering pupils and their teachers, hosted at the local Universities (University of Thrace, University of Crete, University of Epirus)

Exhibition of the project deliverables
Impact

For the pupils
• Enhancement of collaboration and communication skills
• Empowerment/ Self Confidence/ Resilience
• Empathy
• Active participation of pupils-creativity
• Pupils proposed ROLE MODELS themselves-taking initiative
• Pupils took pride on their work-were happy to participate in the project
• Pupils started reflecting about their future-setting targets

For the teachers
• Deeper understanding of pupils’ needs and competences
• New ideas for enriching school activities through the integration of the Pilot Programme in the School’s curriculum

For the ROLE MODELS:
• Thought their difficult journey through life had finally a meaning since it was helpful for the pupils / Were empowered
• They enjoyed the experience/ Expressed their willingness to visit more schools

For Universities: Societal role of the University enhanced
For Schools: Strengthen the school’s capacity to improve its social capital

Next steps
• Continue the implementation at least for the next school year
• Build on the already existing network of schools
• New regions: Attica
• Create a website
• Create a handbook with guidance and good practice examples
• Organise a valorisation of results meeting gathering participant schools from all 3 regions
Thank you for your attention!

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